GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1740
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
INVOLVEMENT OF FOREST DWELLERS IN FOREST CONSERVATION
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to entrust the responsibility of protecting the wild animals to the forest- dwellers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the welfare of forest dwellers in lieu of their contribution in forest conservation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a)&(b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz, 'Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant', the Central Government provides financial and technical assistance to State/UT Governments for various activities aimed at the conservation of wildlife. Such activities include eco-development initiatives, wherein community welfare/ development activities are undertaken for eliciting cooperation from local people including forest dwellers for conservation. Such involvement of local people complements the efforts of the Government in protecting wildlife and its habitat.

(c) & (d) There is no dedicated Scheme for the welfare of forest dwellers in lieu of their contribution in forest conservation. However, such aspects are covered under the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry.